

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:5607.
2. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
3. (Original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.
4. (Original) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
5. (Previously amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1835, or its complement, wherein said nucleic acid encodes an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment of at least twenty amino acid residues.
6. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
7. (Original) A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.
8. (Original) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
9. (Previously amended) A probe comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least forty contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1835 or its complement.